



Helen Rutherford (center) at the 2006 Nursing Convocation surrounded by some of the many students who benefitted from her scholarship program.

Bequest to benefit nursing students and Division of Health Sciences

Helen Eddy Rutherford was a great Nevadan and a longtime friend and supporter of the University of Nevada, Reno. The University's Foundation recently received a major gift from Rutherford's estate that will provide support for students, research and community outreach programs in the Division of Health Sciences.

In 1991, Rutherford established an endowed scholarship fund for Nevada nursing students. Over the past 18 years, more than 120 nursing students have received financial assistance from the Helen Eddy Rutherford Nursing Scholarship.

Kristie Essa '94 (human development and family studies), a second-year nursing student, says it is a "great honor" to be the current Helen Rutherford Nursing Scholarship recipient:

"Having women like Helen Rutherford in the world, who through their generosity and thoughtfulness enable people like me the opportunity to pursue their dreams, is truly a gift. Although I never had the opportunity to meet and personally thank Mrs. Rutherford, her gift is appreciated, and through my education, her spirit of giving and helpfulness can be immortalized and hopefully, one day, paid forward."

Patsy Ruchala, director of the Orvis the School of Nursing, says: "Helen was so generous, definitely in support of our nursing program, but in addition, with her time, her smiles, and how she cared for all of those around her. One of her greatest delights was

attending our convocation ceremony and counting the number of graduates crossing the stage who had received a Helen Rutherford Nursing Scholarship. Her smile seemed to grow as the number of recipients increased. Someone once said that 'great leaders are like the best conductors—they reach beyond the notes to grasp the magic in the players ...' Helen was, indeed, a leader among women, a loving and caring friend, a great conductor, and one of the magical players."

In addition to her nursing scholarship, Rutherford also provided major gifts to support construction of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, and the nursing collection is named in her honor. The Board of Regents awarded her the Distinguished Nevadan designation in 1996 by and in 2001 she was inducted into the Honor Court by the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation.

For more information on supporting the Division of Health Sciences, please contact Stefanie Scopettone, director of development, at (775) 682-9143 or scops@unr.edu.



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